

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 186027

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COM SECRETARY DENT

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EB EWT SHAAS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: HU, BEXP

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO HUNGARIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE
JOZSEF BIRO TO VISIT THE U.S.

1. AMBASSADOR IS REQUESTED TO CALL ON FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER
BIRO AND EXTEND TO HIM INVITATION ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY
DENT TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO U.S. IN FALL. SECRETARY
PROPOSES SEPTEMBER 26-27 FOR OFFICIAL WASHINGTON PORTION
OF VISIT.

2. IN EXTENDING INVITATION TO BIRO, AMBASSADOR SHOULD
RECALL THAT SECRETARY DENT ORIGINALLY INVITED HIM WHEN
SECRETARY WAS IN HUNGARY LAST SEPTEMBER AND BIRO ACCEPTED.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 186027

SECRETARY NOW WISHES TO PUT THAT INVITATION INTO EFFECT.

3. CONTINUED FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT OF U.S.-HUNGARIAN TRADE RELATIONS, COUPLED WITH FACT THAT NO CABINET OFFICIAL CURRENTLY IN OFFICE HAS PAID OFFICIAL VISIT TO U.S., MAKES IT APPROPRIATE TO INVITE BIRO AT THIS TIME. BILATERAL TRADE IN BOTH DIRECTIONS HAS CONTINUED TO EXPAND AND 1974 IS EXPECTED TO BE ANOTHER RECORD YEAR. CORDIAL GOH RECEPTION OF EXECUTIVE-LEVEL MISSION AND INITIALING OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGREEMENT INDICATE THAT GOH WISHES BUILD FOUNDATION FOR MORE PROFITABLE AND DURABLE TRADING RELATIONSHIP.

4. WITHOUT DIMINISHING IMPORTANCE OF MFN QUESTION, WE ALSO BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN DEVELOPMENT TRADE RELATIONS OVER LONGER TERM. MOREOVER, EAST-WEST TRADE PROCESS HAS ADVANCED SO FAR AND AT SAME TIME HAS BECOME SO COMPLEX THAT EXCHANGES OF VIEWS BETWEEN RESPONSIBLE TRADE OFFICIALS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT. SECRETARY THEREFORE DEEMS IT DESIRABLE TO HAVE FULL DISCUSSION OF TRADE POSSIBILITIES WITH BIRO.

5. INCLUDED IN SUBJECT MATTER OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE MATTERS OF STANDING INTEREST, SUCH AS BUSINESS FACILITATION AND FUTURE INTENTIONS OF THE HUNGARIANS IN THE AREA OF COOPERATION AND JOINT VENTURES. RECENT EMBASSY REPORT ON INTERAG BUSINESS FACILITY AND GOH APPROVAL OF THREE DOMESTIC JOINT VENTURES INDICATE THESE THEMES PARTICULARLY TIMELY. BEYOND THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO GO INTO POSSIBILITIES FOR U.S. COMPANY PARTICIPATION IN LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS, SUCH AS THE DANUBE WATER-STAGE UNDERTAKING, AND OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION IN PROCESSING OF RAW MATERIALS.

6. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL TO HAVE FULL REVIEW OF WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BETWEEN U.S. AND HUNGARIAN FIRMS IN THE AREA OF COOPERATION. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PREPARE A CATALOGUE OF PAST COOPERATION TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING U.S. AND HUNGARIAN COMPANIES TO BE USED AS A GUIDE TO FUTURE ACTIVITY.

7. IN ADDITION SUCH RECENT CONTRACTS AS THAT OF HUNGARIAN
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 186027

SHIP AND CRANE WORKS WITH U.S.-BRITISH FIRM, SEA CONTAINERS, INDICATE ENHANCED CAPABILITY OF HUNGARIANS TO GENERATE HARD CURRENCY REVENUES. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW IF SUCH TRANSACTIONS WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT UPON AMOUNT WHICH GOH ALLOTS TO PURCHASES FROM U.S.

8. WITH REGARD TO IDEA OF HUNGARIAN EXECUTIVE MISSION, WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE IT HANDLED SEPARATELY FROM BIRO VISIT.

INDEED, INITIAL PLANNING FOR MISSION COULD BE DONE WITH BIRO WHILE HE IS IN U.S. WE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO VISIT A NUMBER OF COMPANIES WHILE HE IS HERE AND THESE CONTACTS MIGHT SHAPE HIS THINKINGABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF A HUNGARIAN EXECUTIVE MISSION. HOWEVER, WE WELCOME BIRO'S SUGGESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

9. REQUEST EMBASSY REPORT BIRO'S REACTION TO INVITATION.
KISSINGER

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